

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

The following is a marked-up version of the specification with the language that is underlined (“ ”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“~~—~~”) being deleted:

For the paragraph beginning on page 1/50, line 1:

This U.S. patent application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 to the benefit of the filing date of U.S. provisional application serial no. 60/205,963, which was filed on May 19, 2000, and which is incorporated herein by reference. This application also incorporates herein by reference each of seven other U.S. patent applications to Mckinnon et al. filed concurrently herewith in the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office and respectively bearing serial numbers 09/____,____; 09/____,____; 09/____,____; 09/____,____; 09/____,____; 09/____,____; and 09/____,____, 09/800,717; 09/800,735; 09/800,608; 09/800,803; 09/801,155; 09/800,674; and 09/800,981, each of which relates to allocating access across a shared communications medium and is similarly titled.

For the paragraph beginning on page 10/50, line 9:

~~FIGS. 15a and 15b~~ FIGS. 15A and 15B illustrate a flowchart of a fifth preferred method of prioritizing users and allocating bandwidth;

~~FIGS. 16a and 16b~~ FIGS. 16A and 16B illustrate a flowchart of a sixth preferred method of prioritizing users and allocating bandwidth;

For the paragraph beginning on page 30/50, line 14:

Both preferred method of 1500 of ~~FIGS. 15a and 15b~~, **FIGS. 15A and 15B**, and preferred method 1600 of FIGS. 16a and 16b differ from the other methods 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400 in that these two methods allocate bandwidth to the users in multiple allocation rounds. Method 1500 begins in ~~FIG. 15a~~ **FIG. 15A** with the retrieval (Step 1502) of the forecasted bandwidths of the users as well as a credit (C) that applies if a respective user does not receive up to a guaranteed maximum level of bandwidth.

For the paragraph beginning on page 31/50, line 16:

Method 1600 of ~~FIGS. 16a and 16b~~ FIGS. 16A and 16B differs from that of ~~FIGS. 15a and 15b~~ FIGS. 15A and 15B only in that the sum of the forecasted bandwidths for all users is calculated (Step 1602) and a determination is made (Step 1604) whether the sum exceeds the total bandwidth available to the users.